



DURHAM KENNEL CLUB, INC.

Personal Conduct Policy

REFERENCES: Durham Kennel Club ByLaws

AKC Personal Conduct Policy [The American Kennel Club Announces Personal Conduct Policy | Canine Chronicle](#)

AKC Code of Sportsmanship [AKC code of sportsmanship](#)

DEFINITION: It is a privilege to be part of the Durham Kennel Club (DKC). DKC members must demonstrate high character, show respect for others inside and outside our sport, and conduct ourselves in ways that favorably reflect on themselves, our dogs, and the AKC. This includes everyone that participates in any way in AKC or DKC affiliated events, meetings, activities, open work time, and classes from exhibitors, judges, superintendents, show secretaries, club members, stewards, vendors, handlers, or anyone that uses AKC services. This zero-tolerance policy is in conjunction with DKC's Constitution and Bylaws as it relates to conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, those registered under the AKC's PAL registration, All-American dogs or the DKC.

CORE PRINCIPLES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Show Respect: Treat all people (fellow members, guests, instructors, judges, officials, and the public) with courtesy, dignity, and respect, regardless of background, experience, or opinion.

Ensure Safety: Prioritize the safety and well-being of all dogs and people at Club events and activities. This includes following all guidelines, maintaining control of your dog(s), being aware of your surroundings.

Practice Good Sportsmanship: Exhibit fair play, humility in victory, and graciousness in defeat during all competitive or training activities. Encourage and support fellow participants.

Adhere to Rules: Comply with all Club rules, regulations, and guidelines, as well as any applicable local, state, and federal laws.

Responsible Dog Ownership: Demonstrate responsible dog ownership at all times, including proper care, training, socialization, and waste removal for your dog(s).

Maintain a Positive Environment: Contribute to a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, free from harassment, discrimination, or intimidation.

Represent the Club Positively: Members conduct themselves in a manner that favorably reflects on the Club and the sport of dogs.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR:

Aggression/Violence: Physical or verbal aggression, threats, intimidation, or harassment towards any person.

Discrimination/Harassment: Any form of discrimination, bullying, or harassment based on race, color, religion, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or any other protected characteristic. This includes inappropriate comments, conduct, or contact that is sexual in nature.

Animal Abuse/Neglect: Any act of cruelty, abuse, neglect, or inhumane treatment towards any animal. This includes but is not limited to physical harm, inadequate care, or leaving animals unattended where unsafe.

Illegal Activities: Engaging in any illegal activities while participating in Club events or representing the Club. This includes illegal drug or alcohol use, theft, or possession of illegal weapons.

Fraud/Dishonesty: Dishonest acts such as cheating, misrepresenting of facts, or providing false information related to Club activities, registrations, or awards.

Disruptive Behavior: Behavior that significantly disrupts Club meetings, classes, events, or interferes with the enjoyment or safety of others.

Non-Compliance: Failure to comply with instructions from Club officials, instructors, or event staff.

Bringing Unhealthy/Uncontrolled Dogs: Bringing dogs to Club events that are known to be aggressive, ill, in heat (unless specifically permitted and controlled), or whose behavior cannot be safely managed by the owner.

Examples of prohibited behaviors include:

- Making or accepting entry to an event or trial without payment
- Falsifying an entry
- Making disparaging remarks about the Board of Directors, the Club, or its members

Infractions shall be reported to the Recording Secretary in writing within 72 hours of the incident. Reports should include names, description, location, and witnesses. The Recording Secretary will then forward the report to the Board of Directors for further action. If prohibited conduct is substantiated, DKC will follow the disciplinary process as set forth in the Charter and Bylaws of the Durham Kennel Club. In addition, an accused, may be prohibited from being on DKC grounds or at DKC sponsored events.